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Security Council

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Letter dated 15 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request the members of the Council, through you, to examine the underlying causes which led my Government to intervene militarily in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in exercise of the inherent right of self-defence, pursuant to Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Numerous Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1053 (1996), have requested and still request all United Nations Member States to distance themselves from the ex-Forces armées rwandaises (ex-FAR) and Interahamwe militias, the planners and perpetrators of the genocide in Rwanda.

Why does the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in its absolute refusal to comply with these resolutions, ally itself and continue to work closely with the ex-FAR and Interahamwe militias, without the Security Council holding it accountable and penalizing it?

Why does the Security Council agree to the Kinshasa Government not only making the planners and perpetrators of a genocide its allies, but in addition, making them a focus of talks and negotiations and a means of blackmail? This is unacceptable to my Government, and we imagine that the same holds true for the Council, for it could not be otherwise.

The security problems which my Government has raised since 1999 (see the annexed document dated 1 February 1999) remain unchanged. No adequate, appropriate and lasting solution has been put forward to any of them, either by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is the primary cause of these problems, or by the Security Council.

Instead of seeking and finding solutions to Rwanda's security concerns, the Government in Kinshasa has allied itself with the planners and perpetrators of the Rwandan genocide (ex-FAR and Interahamwe militias) with the full knowledge of the Security Council, without the Council holding it accountable and penalizing it.

Since the Security Council has decided to carry out an evaluation mission to the Great Lakes region, my Government insists that the Council consider the security concerns which Rwanda has raised for four years and which have thus far gone unanswered.

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As to the exclusionary apparatus, the killing apparatus, the philosophy of genocide which the ex-FAR and Interahamwe militias have sown and continue to sow in the region: how does the Security Council intend to eradicate this spirit of genocide and uproot it from the region when it cannot even manage to persuade the Kinshasa Government to stop allying itself with genocidal forces?

Lastly, why is it that the recommendations of the Carlsson report (S/1999/1257, annex, enclosure) ordered by the Security Council, which determines the responsibilities of all parties in the Rwandan tragedy, have not been implemented, particularly those dealing with a special programme of economic and social assistance for post-genocide Rwanda?

These are some of the questions that must be raised before an evaluation mission to the Great Lakes region is undertaken.

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated to the Members of the United Nations as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Anastase **Gasana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 15 April 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Legitimate security concerns caused in Rwanda by the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

There are serious legitimate security concerns caused in neighbouring countries by the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Current security concerns of Rwanda are the following:

1. Since 1994, the very forces — Interahamwe militia and former Forces armées rwandaises (ex-FAR) — that committed genocide against the Rwandese people have found refuge in Zaire/Democratic Republic of the Congo. Under the then President Mobutu, the Government of Zaire rearmed, retrained and reorganized these forces and continued to launch raids into Rwanda with the objective of continuing genocide using the then Zaire as the rear base. Not only did President Kabila continue to support these forces, but he publicly and officially integrated them in his armed forces. In so doing, the Zairian/Congolese leadership has abdicated its international responsibility of respecting the sovereignty of its neighbours. It is therefore wrong to assume that the current crisis in the Congo is an issue of the Congo's sovereignty. It is rather a consequence of the Zairian/Congolese violation of the sovereignty of neighbouring countries, including Rwanda.

2. Mr. Kabila's Government is exalting the Rwandan genocide, the extermination of the Tutsi. The international community has witnessed the organized and systematic massacres of innocent civilians by the Congolese government forces in Kinshasa, Kisangani, Kalemie, Moba, Ndosho and elsewhere in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The said genocide has direct impact on the Rwandan State since it is targeting people referred to as Rwandese. To the Rwandese people, genocide means not only the exclusion but the extermination of a section of the population, hence the disintegration of a nation and a people. Therefore, when an outsider, Zaire or the Congo, supports genocide, it is working for the demise of Rwanda as a nation and the Rwandese as people. Fighting genocide, for Rwanda, is a matter of survival. This not only poses a thereat to Rwanda, but is a threat to the entire region, as populations of similar ethnicity are spread all over the region.

3. The unacceptable acts by both the Mobutu and Kabila regimes to expel Congolese of Rwandan culture from Zaire/Democratic Republic of the Congo, in complete violation of the most fundamental rights, have created a presence of a large number of stateless people whom those regimes would wish to uproot from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and deport to Rwanda. This is done in violation of the principles on which modern African States are founded, namely, recognition of colonial boundaries and of the inhabitants within those boundaries as constituting the citizenry of those States.

4. All known criminal elements in our region, such as Interahamwe militia, the ex-FAR, Sudanese fundamentalists, remnant forces of former dictator Idi Amin, the Front pour la défense de la démocratie (FDD), have regrouped in the Democratic

Republic of the Congo. By logistically facilitating linkage of these negative forces, there is an enhanced capacity to destablize any country in our region.

5. For quite some time, arms traffic on the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially through its numerous unregulated airports, particularly threatens the security and stability of Rwanda, as well as the Great Lakes region.

6. President Kabila, in Kinshasa, publicly declared war on Rwanda. President Mugabe, in Lubumbashi, publicly declared war on Rwanda on behalf of Kabila's allies. The Government of Rwanda views such declarations with all the seriousness they deserve.

Done in Kigali, on 1 February 1999